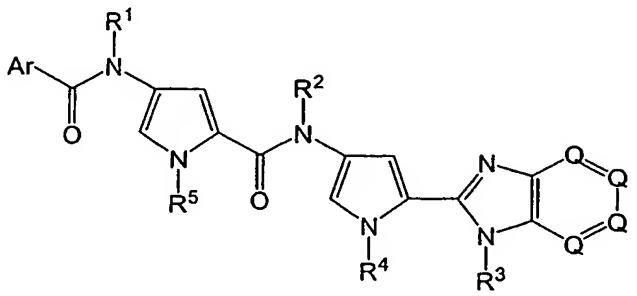
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A compound according to formula (I)



(I)

and the solvates, prodrugs, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, wherein

Ar is an unsubstituted or substituted phenyl group, 5-member heteroaryl group, 6-member heteroaryl group, 6,6-condensed ring aryl or heteroaryl group, or 6,5-condensed ring heteroaryl group;

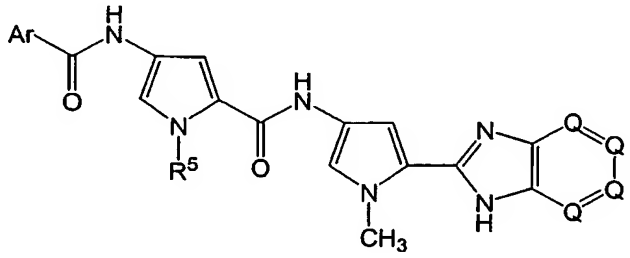
each Q is independently N, CH, C(R^6), where R^6 is as defined hereinbelow, with the proviso that no more than two Q's are N;

each of R^1, R^2, R^3, and R^4 independently is H or a (C_1-C_5) alkyl group;

each R^5 is independently H, a substituted or unsubstituted (C_1-C_{12})alkyl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted (C_1-C_{12}) heteroalkyl group; and

each R^6 is independently a substituted or unsubstituted (C_1-C_{12}) alkyl, OR^5, $N(R^5)_2$, $O(CO)R^5$, $N(CO)R^5$, Cl, F, or Br.

2. A compound according to claim 1, represented by the formula (II)

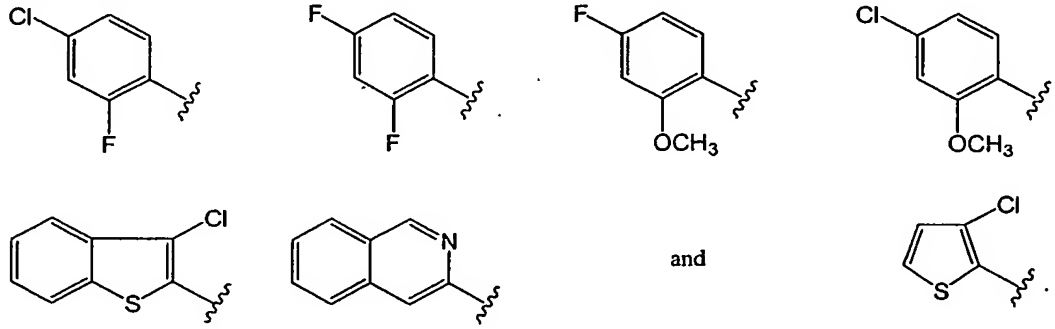


(II)

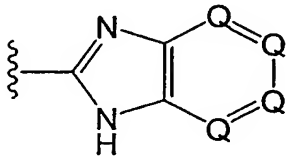
3. A compound according to claim 1, wherein Ar is an unsubstituted or substituted phenyl, imidazolyl, pyrrolyl, pyrazolyl, furanyl, isothiazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, furazanyl, 1,2,3-thiadiazolyl, 1,2,4-thiadiazolyl, 1,2,5-thiadiazolyl, 1,3,4-

thiadiazolyl, 1,2,3-triazolyl, 1,2,4-triazolyl, 1,3,4-oxadiazolyl, 1,2,4-oxadiazolyl, thienyl, pyridyl, pyrimidyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, triazinyl, naphthyl, quinolyl, isoquinolyl, benzothienyl, indolyl, or benzofuranyl group.

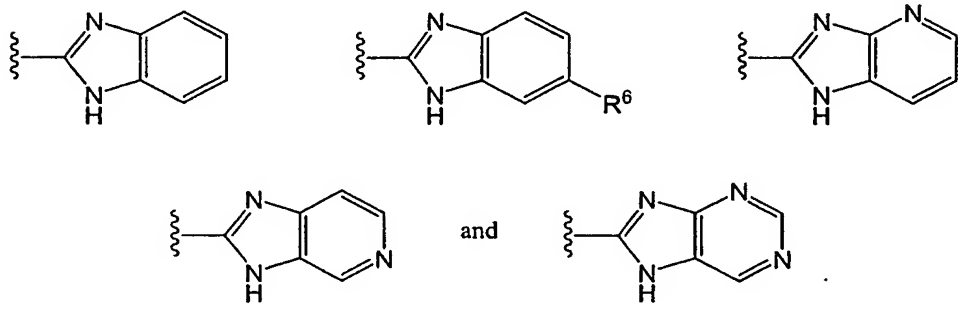
4. A compound according to claim 1, wherein Ar is selected from the group consisting of



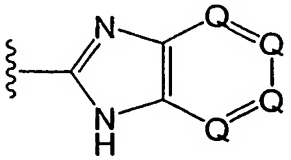
5. A compound according to claim 1, wherein the 6,5-condensed ring system



is selected from the group consisting of

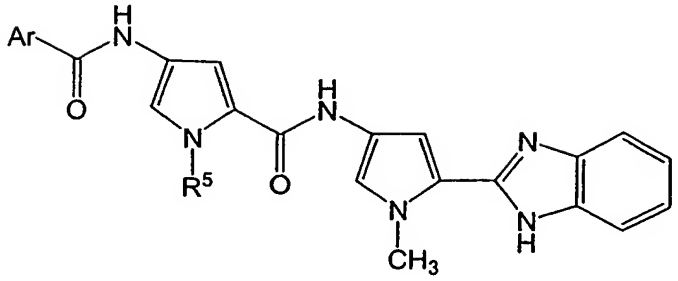


6. A compound according to claim 1, wherein in the 6,5-condensed ring system



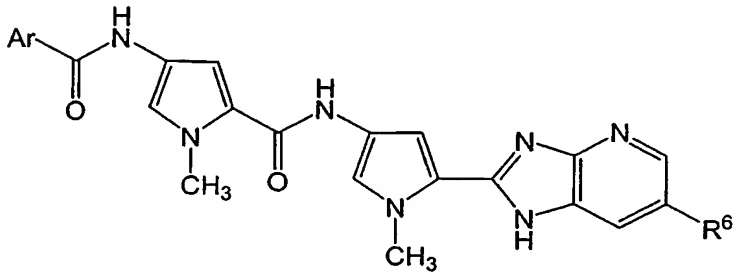
at least one Q is N

7. A compound according to claim 1, represented by the formula (III):



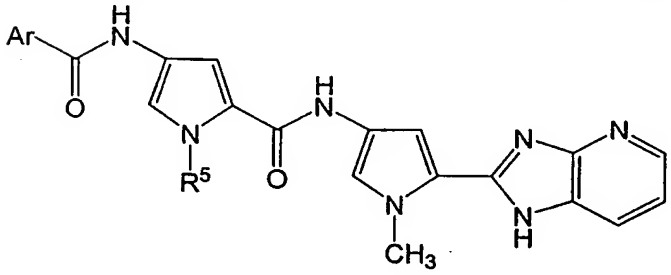
(III)

8. A compound according to claim 1, represented by the formula (IV):



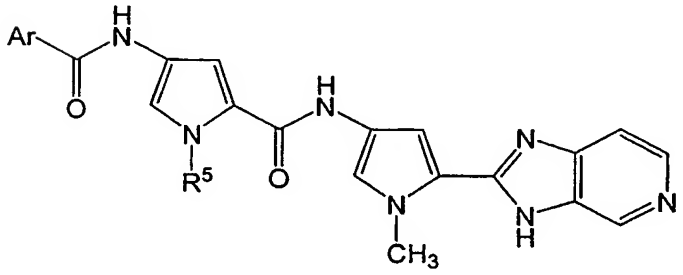
(IV)

9. A compound according to claim 1, represented by the formula (V):



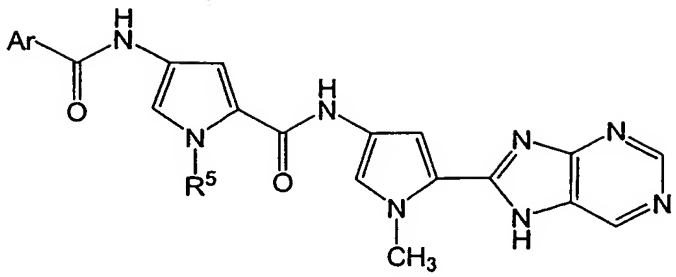
(V)

10. A compound according to claim 1, represented by the formula (VI):



(VI)

11. A compound according to claim 1, represented by the formula (VII):



(VII)

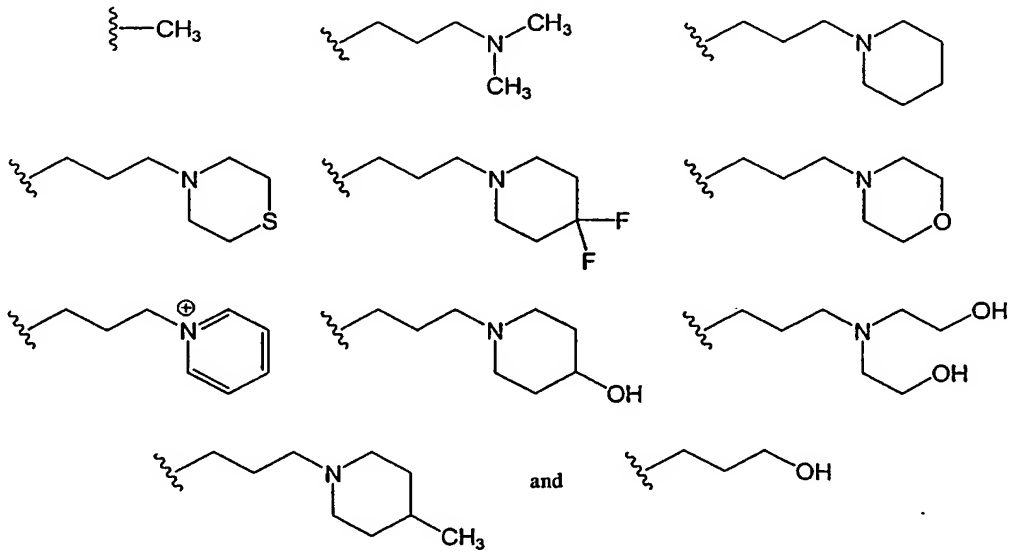
12. A compound according to claim 1, wherein each of R^1, R^2, and R^3 is H.

13. A compound according to claim 1, wherein R^4 is methyl.

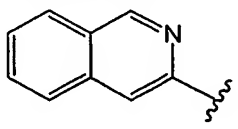
14. A compound according to claim 1, wherein R^5 is methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, $(CH_2)_n(Am)$, or $(CH_2)_n(OH)$, where n is 2, 3, 4, or 5 and Am is an alkyl amine group or a quaternary ammonium group.

15. A compound according to claim 14, wherein R^5 is $(CH_2)_3(Am)$.

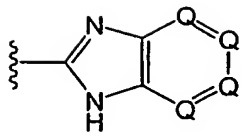
16. A compound according to claim 14, wherein R^5 is selected from the group consisting of



17. A compound according to claim 1, wherein R^5 is methyl, Ar is

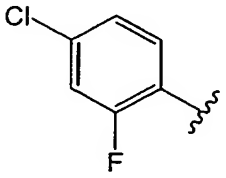
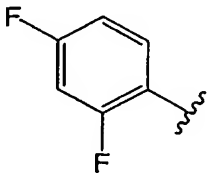
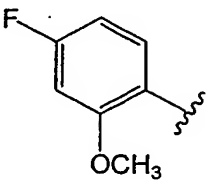
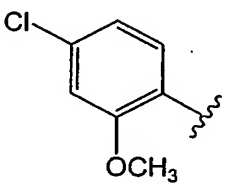


and in the condensed 6,5 ring system



at least one Q is N and the remaining Q's are CH.

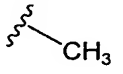
18. A compound according to claim 1, wherein Ar is selected from the group consisting of

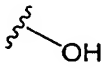
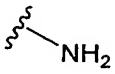
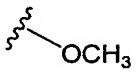
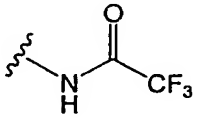
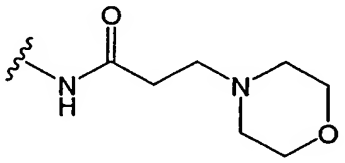
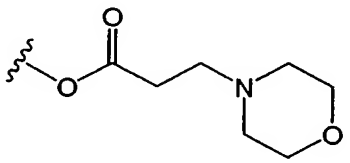
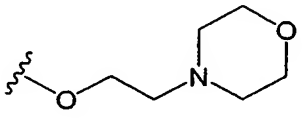



and


and R^5 is $(CH_2)_3N(CH_3)_2$.

19. A compound according to claim 1, wherein R^6 is methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, OR^5, $NH(CO)R^5$, $O(CO)R^5$, $N(R^5)$, or Cl.

20. A compound according to claim 1, wherein R^6 is selected from the group consisting of:









and


21. A compound according to claim 1, having a minimum inhibitory concentration of 4 μg/mL or less against at least one of *Staphylococcus aureus* (ATCC 27660), *Streptococcus pneumoniae* (ATCC 51422), and *Enterococcus faecium* (ATCC 51559).

22. A method of treating a bacterial infection in a mammal, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

23. A method according to claim 22, wherein the bacterial infection is an infection by drug resistant bacteria.

24. A method according to claim 23, wherein the drug resistant bacteria is MRSA, PRSP, or VRE.

25. The use of a compound according to claim 1 for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of a bacterial infection in a mammal.